



Athletic Programs Administration

COED SLOW-PITCH LEAGUE (5- Men and 5- Women) Rules and Regulations

The District of Columbia Department of Parks and Recreation sponsor this league as a recreational opportunity to enhance fitness and fun. We hope that all teams will follow our philosophy of friendly competition in a recreational setting. You can be competitive and courteous at the same time. Respect your opponents and the officials.

*The league will be governed by the **2010 ASA Official Rules of Softball**, with the following **Exceptions**:*

1. Eligibility

- A. Players must be **18** years or older to be eligible. Officials have the right to ask for proof of age at any time.
- B. Eligibility of all players may be checked during the course of the season, and any team carrying ineligible players will forfeit all games played while ineligible players were on the roster. Players may only play on one team per league.
- C. A player's eligibility may be questioned at any time prior to the player's first turn at bat (prior to the first pitch to that player). A manager questions the eligibility of a player by asking the umpire to check the team's roster for the player's name. The questioned player should have a driver's license or another form of identification in order to verify their identity. If the player is not on the roster, he is out of the game and the team will forfeit the game. A player may be given reasonable time to come up with identification at the umpire's discretion. The player will not play until he/she shows identification.
- D. There is a maximum of 20 players on each roster. The roster must remain within these limits throughout the season. New players may be added at any time. However, the **3rd game** is the final deadline for adding any new players to team roster. The APA office must be notified of all roster additions and changes. **Team rosters and waiver forms must be on file at the APA office prior to the first game of the season.**

II. Playing Rules

Rules of Play: Official Guide (**ASA Softball Rule Book**) unless noted in this rule guide.

- A. **Batting:** start out with a one and one count with **NO** courtesy foul. The batting order shall alternate female and male.
- B. **Pitching:** The pitcher has five seconds to release the next pitch after he receives the ball and the batter has taken his position in the batter's box. The ball must be delivered with perceptible arc and reach a height of at least **six (6) feet** from the ground, while not exceeding a maximum height of **ten (10) feet** from the ground. They are not called unfairly delivered until the ball has crossed the plate. A quick pitch is an unfairly delivered pitch.
- C. **Base Stealing:** Stealing bases is **not** allowed.

- D. **Sliding:** Sliding is **not** allowed in coed play.
- E. The league is set up to have **five (5) women** and **five (5) men** on the field at one time.
- A game may begin with 9 players, but when and if another player arrives (of correct sex missing) that player must be inserted into the line-up at the vacant spot in the line-up. Whenever a team is playing with nine players an out will be taken when the vacant position in the batting order appears. Additional hitters may play defense at any time or during any inning throughout the game.
- F. **Fielding:** Two males and two females in both infield and outfield, and one male and one female as pitcher or catcher.
- G. **Walks:** When a man is walked he automatically goes to second base after touching first base. The next batter (female) will bat. Exception: With two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat.
- H. There will be no pre-game infield practice. Pitchers will be given five pitches to begin the game. After the game begins one pitch will be allowed in between innings.
- I. **Home Team:** The home team is designated on the schedule.
- J. **Scorekeeping:** Each team must provide a scorekeeper with the home team having the official book. Please prepare two lineups per game, (as per batting order, please include numbers, last names and positions and include a list of substitutes), one for yourself and one for the other team. Exchange with the other team at least ten minutes before game time. Please confer after each inning with each other as to the score of the game. If there are any problems, report it to the home plate umpire before the next inning begins. If the home team doesn't want to keep score and the opposing team agrees to keep it, the home team gives up the right to regain the book back during the game.
- K. **League Games:** Games will start as scheduled. There will be a **fifteen** minute grace period on the first game only, and no grace period thereafter. The grace period will be reduced from the overall game time. Games will last one hour in length or until one side has scored more runs than the other at the end of a complete inning; or until the team second at bat has scored more runs in their half of the inning before the third out is made. If an inning ends after 60 minutes and the score is tied, **the INTERNATIONAL TIE BREAKER** rule will be used for **ONE EXTRA INNING**, if the game is still tied, it will be considered a tie game. Each team will be awarded a 1/2 game in the standing. A **twenty (20) run** lead will apply after the **3rd** inning, a **fifteen (15) run** lead rule will apply after **4th** inning or **ten (10) run** lead after the **5th** inning.
- L. **Play:** During the game, the ball must be returned to the pitcher immediately. The ball will not be thrown around the infield after each out. Bunting or chipping of the ball will not be allowed and will constitute an automatic out. A third strike foul is an automatic out.
- M. **Substitution Rules:** Substitution must take place in the batting order of the player they replace. It is not necessary that they play the same position in the field. Starters (including the pitcher) may reenter the game only once, and must take their original turn in the batting order (i.e., they must replace the substitute who took their turn in the batting order). Substitutes may not reenter the game if they are taken out. Substitutions may be made at any time the ball is not in play.
- N. **Protests:** All protests concerning softball rules must be made to the umpire at the time of the incident prior to resuming play. The umpire will immediately notify the field supervisor, official scorekeeper and opposing manager, then enter the protest in the

scorebook and the score sheet. Protests must be submitted to the Athletic Supervisor within 24 hours. Protests must be accompanied by a \$25.00 protest fee, which is to be submitted with a written protest. Do not give the \$25.00 to the umpire or the Field Supervisor. If the protesting team wins the protest, the \$25.00 will be refunded. If the protest is not upheld, the \$25.00 will not be refunded. The Athletic Supervisor and Head Umpire will decide protests.

IV. **Player and Team Conduct**

- A. **Unsportsmanlike Conduct:** This league is sponsored by the District of Columbia Department of Parks and Recreation for the recreation value of the participant involved. Teams must adhere to this philosophy. Any player, team or manager who displays any form of **unsportsmanlike conduct**, a flagrant rule violation, vulgar language, engaging in fighting, obviously attempting to injure anyone, or threatening or purposely touching an official or umpire, may be suspended from league play at Parks and Recreation discretion. In addition, the team or individual(s) will be placed on probation if they continue in the league. A second incident may result in the suspension of the entire team. Any player or coach who assaults or strikes a game official will be barred from all Parks and Recreation activities for a period of not less than six months. The umpires and officials of the league have the power to eject any player, coach or team from the league for especially flagrant rule violations. Fees will not be refunded. Any person(s) ejected from the game shall leave the field immediately. Failure to do so will warrant a forfeiture of the game. The coach or manager shall be responsible for actions by his players and for informing them of all rules.
- B. The use of alcohol, explosives, firecrackers, firearms, or weapons on District of Columbia property is prohibited by the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations and the District of Columbia Code.
 - 1. Any individual (player or spectator) found to be in possession of any alcoholic while on DC Government property will result in the forfeiture of the game. Any following infractions will result in the forfeiture of the entire season.
 - 2. Neither the District of Columbia Government or the DC Parks and Recreation will assume responsibility for claims of personal injury or damage to public or private property arising from playing in the DPR Adult Leagues.

V. **Equipment**

- A. **Game balls:** Balls will be ASA restricted, core .44 approved 12 inch Red Stitch. Only official softball bats may be used. Facemask and chest protector is optional for the catcher. **Teams are responsible for their equipment.**
- B. **Uniforms:** Each individual must have a shirt. The shirts do not need to be uniform in color, but must have a number. If the number matches another shirt, the number must be changed accordingly with tape, etc.
- C. **Metal spikes are not permitted.**

VI. **Other**

- A. **Inclement Weather:** Games will be called by the Athletic Supervisor, plate umpire or field maintenance man at or prior to game time. Coaches and players should call the DC Parks and Recreation Weather Line Number, 202-671-0331 if they are not sure if games are going to be played on weekdays and an hour and half before game time on Sunday. A recorded message will answer at that number if games have been cancelled. You can also go to www.dpr.dc.gov. Cancelled games will be made up at the Athletic Supervisor's discretion. Team coaches can reschedule rainout games and the APA office will provide a site and umpires.

- B. **Game Scores:** The winning Team Manager is responsible for reporting the official score to the League Supervisor by email to: luna.harrison@dc.gov – by 12:00 Noon on the day following the game. Please do this consistently so your League Standings can be kept up to date!